



May 11, 2025 (Mother's Day)

Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee,

We have children on our streets with nowhere safe to go.

Scorpion Creek Ranch respectfully requests \$1.5 million to purchase land - a critical next step to opening our doors. We have significant donors waiting in the wings, ready to support once they see the state's commitment to this cause.

Early intervention is key, not only for their well-being but from a fiscally responsible standpoint as well. Leaving these children to fend for themselves costs the state more down the road. The longer we wait, the harder it becomes to intervene. This is how we break generational trauma and poverty: we help these kids now.

These children, many under 18, aren't just facing homelessness - they experience being sex trafficked, victims of violence & abuse, and a chronic, deep sense of hopelessness.

In Lane County, DHS/CPS have open cases of children living on the streets, knowingly trafficked, but there is nowhere safe to take them. This is an unacceptable failure of the system.

Scorpion Creek Ranch offers a solution: a safe place, stability, and hope. Our program will provide project-based education, trauma-informed care, vocational training, and a sense of belonging. This isn't just shelter; it's about giving youth the tools to break free from poverty and trauma.

By investing in early intervention, we give these kids a chance to thrive while also saving the state money on long-term costs: emergency services, juvenile detention, and mental health care - all burdens on taxpayers.

We've already built the foundation: a dedicated team, community support, and financial backing. Now, we need your help to secure the land to make this happen. We have financial supporters, in-kind donations, support from significant community stakeholders, and growing volunteer networks ready to move forward.

Let's make Oregon the state known for solving the crisis of homeless youth, pioneering a solution that transforms futures, rather than remaining one of the highest homelessness states in the country.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Katie Brown



April 3, 2025

Subject: Support for Capital Funding – Scorpion Creek Ranch

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

As CEO of Lane Transit District (LTD) and a board member of Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR), I write in strong support of SCR's request for capital funding.

At LTD, we witness the impact of homelessness every day. While we've partnered with local agencies to connect people to services, the need for long-term, transformative solutions is urgent. SCR represents exactly that visionary model that will provide stable housing, trauma-informed care, vocational training, and holistic education, all under one roof.

This is not just a program; it's a new way forward. At the recent SCR Community Gathering, more than 250 attendees - including Mayors Knudson and VanGordon - stood in support of this bold vision.

With a strong team, a growing coalition, and a clear path ahead, SCR is ready to launch. Now is the time to act. Your support will bring this visionary model to life and change the future for countless young Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Jameson Auten  
CEO, Lane Transit District  
Board of Directors, Scorpion Creek Ranch





**Christopher J. Parosa**  
**Lane County District Attorney**

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LANE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
125 EAST 8<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, ROOM 400  
EUGENE, OREGON 97401-2926  
FAX ONLY (541) 682-3890  
(541) 682-4261

March 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As the District Attorney of Lane County, I am writing to express my strong support for Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their request for capital funding.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet with Katie Brown, the founder of Scorpion Creek Ranch, on multiple occasions. Through these conversations, I have seen the depth of her commitment and the clarity of her vision. I have also watched the community momentum around this project continue to grow, a clear signal that SCR is not just wanted, but needed.

I had the privilege of attending the SCR community gathering at the Wildish Theater, where more than 250 people came together to support this initiative. The event was opened by Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson and Springfield Mayor Sean VanGordon, standing side by side. That level of civic unity is rare, and it reflects just how urgent and important this project is to our region.

The truth is stark: there are teenagers, youth under the age of 18, living on our streets with literally nowhere to go. They are vulnerable to trafficking, drug exposure, violence, and trauma that can alter the course of their lives. This is not just a social services issue, it is a public safety issue, a community issue, and a moral one.

Scorpion Creek Ranch offers a comprehensive, trauma-informed model that will provide youth with housing, education, mental health support, vocational training, and, perhaps most importantly, a chance to reclaim their future. It is a proactive approach that addresses the root causes of generational cycles we see all too often in the justice system.

I strongly encourage the Oregon Legislature to support this critical project. It is a wise investment in the safety, stability, and well-being of our youth, and by extension, our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. J. Parosa".

Christopher J. Parosa  
District Attorney  
Lane County, Oregon



**SPRINGFIELD**  
HIGH SCHOOL

875 7th Street  
Springfield, OR 97477

541-744-4700  
FAX: 541-744-4144



**Self-aware - Honest - Appreciative - Respectful - Persistent**

April 4, 2025

Dear Oregon Legislators,

As Principal of Springfield High School, I am deeply concerned about the increasing number of high school-aged youth experiencing homelessness. These students face immense challenges, with many struggling to maintain regular attendance; some, unfortunately, dropping out altogether. Currently, 5.5% of our students qualify for support under the McKinney-Vento Act. Without the stability and safety of a home, their risks of disengagement from school and future hardship only multiply.

I have known Katie Brown for over 25 years, and her vision for Scorpion Creek Ranch stands out as one of the most thoughtful and impactful solutions to youth homelessness I have encountered in my career. This is not just another short-term intervention: It is a transformative, long-term solution built on compassion, structure, and an unwavering belief in every young person's potential. Scorpion Creek Ranch offers what these youth need most: a safe and supportive community, a true sense of belonging, and the essential tools to rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.

I was honored to join the SCR Advisory Board early on because I believe deeply in this mission. I was also proud to stand alongside hundreds of community members at the Wildish Theater, unified in our support for this bold and necessary initiative. Beyond the immediate human impact, Scorpion Creek Ranch presents a cost-effective solution to long-term societal challenges; reducing state expenditures related to chronic homelessness, emergency services, and justice system involvement.

This is a defining moment; one that calls for leadership, vision, and decisive action. Supporting Scorpion Creek Ranch's capital funding request is not just sound policy; it is a lasting investment in the future of Oregon's youth. I urge you to stand with us in making this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

José da Silva  
Principal, Springfield High School  
Springfield Public Schools



Megan Shultz  
Community Coordinator 15th Night  
10 Shelton McMurphey Blvd  
Eugene, OR 97404  
[info@15thNight.org](mailto:info@15thNight.org)  
541-954-5179

March 30, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Community Coordinator of 15th Night, I am writing in support of Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their capital funding request.

At 15th Night, our mission is to prevent youth from falling into homelessness by mobilizing community systems of support. While prevention remains our core focus, we recognize that a continuum of care is essential for addressing the full spectrum of youth needs. Scorpion Creek Ranch will fill a critical gap in that continuum.

The model SCR is building will provide long-term housing, mental health support, trauma-informed care, education, vocational training, and community mentorship for youth ages 14 to 18. It will create a safe, stable, and healing environment for youth who are most at risk of becoming chronically unhoused.

We are excited to be among SCR referral partners when they open, confident that their model will offer the kind of transformative support that leads to real, measurable outcomes.

The Oregon Legislature has a rare opportunity to invest in a future-facing solution. Scorpion Creek Ranch will be a beacon of hope and a model of what is possible when we prioritize youth wellness, dignity, and potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Megan Shultz'.

Megan Shultz

*To leverage our existing community resources and not create another non-profit, 15<sup>th</sup> Night is a program of OSLC Developments, Inc. for purposes of fiscal oversight and administrative functions.*



March 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As Executive Director of Lane Workforce Partnership, the Local Workforce Development Board serving Lane County, I am writing to express our strong support for Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their request for capital funding to bring this transformative project to life.

At Lane Workforce Partnership, our mission is to develop a regional workforce that is skilled, inclusive, and equipped to meet the evolving needs of our local economy. The model being developed at SCR directly aligns with this mission.

By providing housing, trauma-informed care, and vocational training to youth experiencing homelessness, SCR will build a pipeline of empowered, work-ready individuals who would otherwise remain disconnected from opportunity. This is exactly the kind of innovative, system-level solution our workforce ecosystem needs.

The vocational pathways that will be offered at Scorpion Creek Ranch, in areas like culinary arts, welding, mechanics, and agriculture, are not only relevant but essential to the current and future labor market in Lane County and beyond. SCR will address the barriers that prevent youth from entering the workforce and replace them with skills, stability, and a sense of purpose.

This is not just a social service program – it is a strategic workforce development initiative. The long-term impact of SCR will be felt across communities and industries, as more young people gain access to meaningful employment and become contributors to a stronger, more resilient economy.

We encourage the Oregon Legislature to support Scorpion Creek Ranch's capital funding request. Your investment will unlock opportunity, strengthen our talent pipeline, and create a lasting impact of youth, employers, and communities throughout our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Espinoza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Ashley Espinoza  
Executive Director



## DANA B. FLEMING

501-318-6779  
4985 Hunters Glen Drive  
Eugene, OR 97405  
alasaban@sbcglobal.net

April 4, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their request for capital funding.

As the Executive Director of Eugene Public Library Foundation, I spend every day in the heart of our community. From my window and in the library's halls, I see firsthand the growing number of homeless youth - teenagers who should be in school, in loving homes, supported and protected. Instead, they are trying to survive. Their presence is not abstract or invisible, it is immediate and heartbreaking.

I joined the Board of Directors at Scorpion Creek Ranch because I believe in real solutions. The SCR model is one of the most thoughtful and comprehensive responses I have seen to this crisis. It offers not just shelter, but healing: trauma-informed care, consistent support, education, vocational training, and community. It gives youth the tools to reclaim their lives and futures, starting with the most basic of needs: a safe, warm bed – every night.

This is the kind of investment that creates lasting change. It meets young people where they are and walks with them toward a life of stability and possibility. The cost of doing nothing is far greater, not only to these youth, but also to our communities and to the systems strained by the long-term impacts of homelessness.

Scorpion Creek Ranch is a bold, necessary step forward. I ask that you stand with us in bringing it to life.

Sincerely,

Dana B. Fleming  
Executive Director, Eugene Public Library Foundation  
Board Member, Scorpion Creek Ranch



Representatives of the Oregon Legislature  
Salem, OR

March 30, 2025

Re: Scorpion Creek Ranch

Dear Legislators,

As Executive Director of Hosea Youth Services in Eugene, OR, I offer my full support for Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their capital funding request.

At Hosea, we serve unhoused and vulnerable young people, primarily ages 16 – 24. Every day we see the results of significant issues in our society, with the product being thousands of young people in our state being on the streets and struggling to become self-sufficient. We know firsthand that emergency services alone are not enough, and they need more than a bed for the night. They need safety, love, care, structure and significant support if they are going to achieve self-sufficiency.

We have great hope that Scorpion Creek Ranch will offer just that! Their model combines housing, trauma-informed care, education, job training, mentorship, and healthy food in a long-term residential setting. It is comprehensive, practical, and deeply aligned with the needs of the youth we serve. We know that the younger we can engage and impact young people, the greater chance they have to achieve a healthy and purposeful life.

We serve many young people who we know can benefit from the services of Scorpion Creek Ranch, and look forward to being a referral source. I strongly urge the Oregon Legislature to support this vital initiative.

Thank you.

Brad Bills  
Executive Director  
Hosea Youth Services



101 South A Street, PO Box 155, Springfield, OR 97477  
541-746-1651 | [www.springfield-chamber.org](http://www.springfield-chamber.org)

April 3, 2025

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

As President and CEO of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) Advisory Board, **I am writing to express my strong support for SCR's capital funding request to advance their vital efforts in addressing youth homelessness.** Youth homelessness is not just a humanitarian crisis, it is an economic and community issue that demands a proactive response. Investing in solutions like SCR is an investment in the economic resiliency of Oregon.

Lane County and communities across Oregon are experiencing a growing crisis of chronic instability among teens. **Without timely intervention, homeless youth face high risks of long-term unemployment, continued homelessness, and dependence on public systems. This cycle of hardship not only limits individual potential but places an increasing economic burden on our state. By addressing the root causes before these challenges become lifelong patterns, we can break this cycle and foster economic sustainability.**

SCR provides a trauma-informed, comprehensive model that includes safe housing, therapeutic care, education, and vocational training. This holistic approach is essential for stabilizing vulnerable youth and equipping them with the skills necessary to lead productive lives. **More than just a shelter, SCR is a workforce development initiative that prepares young people for careers in high-demand skilled trades, such as culinary arts, welding, construction, and agriculture.** These are fields that our business community urgently needs to sustain a thriving local and state economy.

**Importantly, SCR offers early intervention that will reduce long-term costs to the state. By investing in stable housing and job training now, we reduce future expenditures on emergency services, law enforcement, and social programs associated with chronic homelessness. This strategic investment aligns with the Springfield Chamber's advocacy for Community Resiliency funds—ensuring economic sustainability, increasing opportunity, and mitigating economic hardship in our region.**

SCR's project is shovel-ready and backed by a strong coalition of leaders from business, education, healthcare, and government. This cross-sector collaboration demonstrates the widespread recognition of SCR's impact and the urgency of funding this initiative.

Oregon has an opportunity to lead with a model that provides real solutions to youth homelessness while strengthening our workforce and economy. I urge you to support the funding request for SCR's critical work and ensure that Oregon invests in the future of its young people. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Mikkelsen'.

Vonnie Mikkelsen  
President and CEO

Director of Crisis Services  
Riverview Center for Growth (formerly The Child Center)  
3995 Marcola Road  
Springfield, OR 97477

3/31/25

To the Elected Members of Oregon's Legislature,

As the Director of Crisis Services at Riverview Center for Growth, I am writing to express my strong support for Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their request for capital funding from the Oregon State Legislature.

At Riverview, we work every day with youth and families impacted by trauma, housing instability, and a lack of consistent, long-term care options. One of the most painful realities we encounter is the lack of safe, stable environments for youth ages 14 to 18 who are experiencing homelessness. These are children with no place to go, vulnerable to exploitation, substance use, and ongoing trauma.

The model being developed at Scorpion Creek Ranch offers a visionary and deeply necessary solution. With trauma-informed care at its core, SCR will provide a residential campus where youth can access safe housing, mental health support, education, vocational training, and a supportive community. This comprehensive, healing-centered approach is exactly what our youth need to interrupt cycles of crisis and begin building lives of stability and purpose.

We are proud to be in collaboration with SCR and look forward to future referral partnerships. I have been encouraged by the strength and momentum behind this project and the leadership of Katie Brown, who has brought together an impressive coalition of professionals, educators, and community advocates.

I respectfully ask the Oregon Legislature to support this capital funding request. Scorpion Creek Ranch has the potential to be a transformative resource for our region and a replicable model for the entire state.

Sincerely,

*Julie Williamson, MA*

Julie Williamson, MA  
Director of Crisis Services  
Riverview Center for Growth



Caroline Cummings  
CEO, Varo Ventures, Inc

*Former CEO, RAIN Catalysts*  
PO Box 1521, Eugene, OR 97440  
[varoventures717@gmail.com](mailto:varoventures717@gmail.com)  
541-968-2982

March 26, 2025

Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

As the former CEO of RAIN Catalysts for nearly a decade and current CEO of Varo Ventures, Inc. – I have been a long-time advocate for inclusive economic development and advocacy for those who are underserved. I am writing to express my strong support for Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their capital funding request.

Throughout my career, I have worked to build sustainable and inclusive ecosystems where entrepreneurs and communities can thrive. What SCR is building aligns perfectly with that vision—*because at its core*—this project is about equipping youth with the tools, support, and opportunity to become thriving, contributing members of society.

**The SCR model goes far beyond housing. There is nothing else like it in Oregon.**

It offers a scalable, trauma-informed system that addresses the root causes of youth homelessness. By integrating vocational training, education, organic food production, and mentorship, SCR is not just creating stability, it is also building future leaders who will be equipped to become active members of their communities.

**This is the kind of bold, community-rooted innovation Oregon needs – and now is the time!** Supporting Scorpion Creek Ranch means investing in a solution that will uplift our most vulnerable youth and strengthen the social and economic fabric of our state.

**Please fund the Scorpion Creek Ranch capital fund proposal.** You will see short-and long-term results from this innovative model that will transform youth homelessness in Lane County.

Sincerely,

Caroline Cummings

**To the Oregon State Legislature**

April 2, 2025



Dear Legislators,

As the Executive Director of Parrott Creek Child and Family Services, I am writing to express my strong support for Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their request for capital funding.

At Parrott Creek, we have worked for over fifty years to support youth and families facing adversity, helping them navigate pathways from trauma to healing and we are now recognized as one of Oregon's most innovative and forward-thinking youth charities. Over the past year, we have supported and collaborated with the leadership of Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR), and I can say with confidence that their model represents one of the most promising developments in Oregon's effort to address youth homelessness and generational poverty.

To put it simply, there is no one else taking such an innovative, youth-centered and heart-led approach to youth homelessness in our state.

Much like we are doing at Parrott Creek for adjudicated youth, kids struggling with addiction and those in the child welfare systems, SCR is building a comprehensive, trauma-informed residential campus for youth ages 14 to 18. Their approach includes stable housing, mental health care, education, vocational training, organic farming, and community mentorship, all woven together in a way that reflects the latest best practices in youth development and care.

This is not a short-term fix, it is a long-term, place-based solution that gets at the root causes of disconnection and despair. The team behind SCR is committed, thoughtful, and deeply engaged with community partners across sectors. We are proud to be working closely with them as they prepare to launch.

I encourage the Oregon Legislature to fund this vital project. The future of our state depends on how we care for our most vulnerable youth. Scorpion Creek Ranch is ready to lead the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Fulford", with a large, stylized initial "S" and a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**Simon Fulford, Executive Director**

April 4th, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Thomas Horn, and I've spent the better part of my professional life in education. I have served as principal at both Edison Elementary School and Al Kennedy School of Sustainability, where I helped develop a curriculum centered on project-based learning. At Kennedy, we rebuilt the educational model from the ground up—focusing on real-world engagement, environmental sustainability, and student ownership—and witnessed undeniable and significant improvement in the student body. Over the years, I've had the privilege of leading schools committed to student-centered learning, and I have witnessed firsthand the transformational power of project-based learning (PBL), especially for students who have struggled in traditional academic settings.

I'm writing today in full support of Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their request for capital funding. I speak not just as an educator, but as someone who has known the founder, Katie Brown, for decades—since our time together at South Eugene High School.

Over the past two years, I've met with Katie five or six times as she has developed and refined the SCR model. Each time, I've been impressed by her clarity of purpose, the integrity of her vision, and the depth of commitment she brings to addressing youth homelessness and disconnection. After our most recent meeting, I said without hesitation, "This is one of the most exciting things happening on the educational front in Lane County."

SCR's model integrates safe housing, trauma-informed care, mentorship, and hands-on learning—all grounded in the principles of PBL. It is exactly the kind of educational experience that meets youth where they are and provides them with the structure, support, and purpose they need to grow.

In my own career, I have seen how students who have been disengaged, disillusioned, or even written off can reignite a love of learning when given opportunities that are meaningful, relevant, and rooted in real life. That is what SCR is building.

This is a rare opportunity to invest in something that works—an initiative grounded in purpose, guided by experience, and capable of changing lives. Funding Scorpion Creek Ranch is more than a vote of support, it is a commitment to a better future for Oregon's youth.

Regards,  
Tom Horn

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Horn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Horn  
Eugene 4j Administrator  
200 N. Monroe  
Eugene, OR 97402  
thomashorn11@gmail.com  
Cell: 458-273-6464

April 4, 2025

To the Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the capital funding request submitted on behalf of Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR), a transformative initiative dedicated to providing comprehensive care for teenagers experiencing homelessness.

On January 23, I had the opportunity to attend the SCR Community Gathering at the Wildish Theater, where more than 250 community members came together to learn about this visionary model. The energy, clarity of purpose, and commitment to innovation demonstrated at that event were deeply moving.

Following the gathering, I met with SCR Founder Katie Brown for coffee to learn more. I was not only impressed by her passion and tenacity but also by the strategic thinking behind the SCR model; combining stable housing, trauma-informed care, vocational training, life skills development, and a deeply rooted sense of community under one roof. This isn't just another program; it's a systems-level response to a long-standing crisis.

Inspired by our conversation, I invited Katie to present at my Rotary group to expand awareness and support. In my role as Planning, Parks & Facilities Director for Willamalane Park and Recreation District, I see immense potential in building a long-term partnership with Scorpion Creek Ranch, and I firmly believe it is the kind of solution that can be scaled and replicated far beyond Lane County.

With community backing and state support, SCR has the power to change lives and strengthen our region for generations to come. I hope you'll give this project your full consideration as a promising and much-needed model for addressing youth homelessness in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric Adams".

**Eric Adams, CPRE**

Member, Rotary Club of Springfield, Oregon

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I write in strong support of Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their capital funding request. I am the CEO of Pipeworks Studios, a long-standing creative and economic force in downtown Eugene, and I witness firsthand the impact of youth homelessness on our community.

We see the urgent need to address youth homelessness, each and every day. We encounter the impact of this crisis firsthand, both outside our doors and within the broader ecosystem of downtown. It is clear that our community can no longer afford to treat youth homelessness as a side issue. We need real, lasting solutions.

I've known Katie Brown for over a decade. Her integrity, compassion, and tenacity are undeniable. What she has built with Scorpion Creek Ranch is not a temporary patch. SCR is a thoughtfully designed, trauma-informed model that provides homeless youth with safety, vocational training, education, and the community support they need to reclaim their futures.

SCR offers our region the kind of visionary infrastructure that turns despair into possibility. As a business leader, I believe this is exactly the kind of investment that strengthens both lives and local economies.

Please support this capital funding request. Lane County is in crisis, and SCR is the kind of solution we need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Gupton', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Lindsay Gupton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pipeworks Studios

**Bev Smith**

2150 Onyx Street  
Eugene, OR 97403  
smithbev@live.com  
541 913 3651

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

In my role as the Executive Director of KIDSPORTS and a lifelong advocate for youth development, I am writing in strong support of Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR) and their request for capital funding.

In my 15 years as the Executive Director at KIDSPORTS and throughout my 35 years of coaching and mentoring youth, I have seen how critical consistent mentorship, structure, and a sense of belonging are to a young person's development. These core elements are not just nice to have, they are essential to building healthy, resilient youth. For those experiencing homelessness and trauma, access to such foundations is nearly impossible.

Scorpion Creek Ranch is designed to change that. Their model, combining stable housing, mental health support, project-based education, vocational training, organic food production, and community mentorship, represents a transformative and holistic approach to youth wellness. SCR is building more than a program; they are building a place where young people can heal, grow, and discover their potential.

The vision of SCR is ambitious, but it is also deeply practical. They are addressing the root causes of generational poverty and trauma with compassion, community, and a sustainable blueprint for long-term impact.

This is exactly the kind of innovative, community-rooted solution that deserves public investment. Supporting Scorpion Creek Ranch means investing in the youth who will become the strong, contributing members of Oregon's future.

Respectfully,

Bev Smith

Former Canadian Women's Olympic Basketball Coach 1997 - 2000; former Oregon Women's Basketball Coach 2001 – 2009; current Executive Director of KIDSPORTS and Civic Park in Eugene, Oregon.

March 30th 2025

Oregon Legislative Assembly  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

To Whom It May Concern,

As the former Executive Director of Connected Lane County, where I proudly served for the past ten years, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR), and their request for capital funding.

Throughout my tenure at Connected Lane County, I worked closely with local youth, schools, nonprofits, and employers to build systems of support that ensure all young people have access to opportunity. But over and over again, we were confronted with one inescapable truth: for our most vulnerable youth, those experiencing homelessness, no amount of opportunity matters without first meeting their basic needs for safety, stability, and belonging.

That is why the team and Board of Connected Lane County were proud to serve as SCR's fiscal sponsor during its formation, helping to shepherd this visionary effort until the organization received its IRS tax-exempt status in November 2024. From the beginning, it was clear that Scorpion Creek Ranch was building something bold, urgent, and necessary.

The SCR model offers a trauma-informed, healing-centered residential campus that will combine safe housing, mental health support, vocational training, organic farming, and mentorship. It is a replicable, deeply human solution that gives youth more than shelter, it gives them a path forward.

Even now, after stepping down from my role at Connected Lane County, I remain a steadfast advocate for SCR. I have seen firsthand how powerfully this model aligns with our region's most pressing needs, and how ready our community is to support it. I urge the Oregon Legislature to fund this project. The young people of our state cannot wait. They deserve a future. Scorpion Creek Ranch is ready to help them build one.

Respectfully,

Heidi Larwick  
Former Executive Director, Connected Lane County  
  
22 West 7th Avenue, Eugene OR 97401

Joshua Burgess

31 March 2025

Director of the Central Oregon Civic Action Project

Bend, OR 97703

**RE: Letter of Support for Scorpion Creek Ranch Capital Funding Request**

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the capital funding request submitted on behalf of Scorpion Creek Ranch (SCR). As an advocate for community-driven solutions to social challenges, I recognize the critical need for proactive interventions that address the root causes of youth homelessness in our state.

In my role as Senior Advisor for the USA Program at DemocracyNext and Director of the Central Oregon Civic Action Project, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of community initiatives that empower individuals and foster resilience. SCR embodies this approach by providing a comprehensive, trauma-informed environment where vulnerable youth can access stable housing, education, vocational training, and mentorship.

The proactive model implemented by SCR not only addresses the immediate needs of at-risk youth but also serves as a preventive measure against the long-term societal costs associated with chronic homelessness. By investing in SCR, the state of Oregon has an opportunity to support a program that not only changes lives but also contributes to the economic and social well-being of our communities.

I urge you to consider the profound impact that funding SCR can have on our state's efforts to combat youth homelessness.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Josh Burgess

Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired)

[josh@edgeeffectgroup.com](mailto:josh@edgeeffectgroup.com)

(541)206-6868

# Scorpion Creek Ranch – Donor Acknowledgement

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We are proud to share that, even before establishing a physical location, Scorpion Creek Ranch has garnered remarkable support from our community. The generosity reflected in this list of donors speaks volumes about the excitement and belief in our mission. These early contributions demonstrate both the urgency of the need we are addressing and the trust our supporters have placed in us to bring this vision to life. As we move forward, this foundation of early investment sets the stage for the growth, impact, and long-term sustainability of Scorpion Creek Ranch.

## Platinum Donors (\$5,000+)

- Andrew Edwards & Lucy Natanson — \$30,000.00 (includes Microsoft match)
- Ron & Colleen Howard — \$10,000.00
- Olsson Industrial Electric — \$5,000.00
- Guistina Family — \$5,000.00

## Gold Donors (\$1,000-\$4,999)

- Richardson Sports — \$3,000.00
- Chiquit McCloskey — \$2,125.00
- Sharah Madrone — \$2,100.00
- Jeffrey Dessler — \$2,000.00
- Sara Mason — \$2,000.00
- Oregon Pacific Bank — \$1,500.00
- Eric Olson — \$1,100.00
- Jim & Becky Carlson — \$1,100.00
- Emma Deane — \$1,000.00
- Mark Herbert — \$1,000.00
- Mary Jeanne-Jacobsen — \$1,000.00
- Megan Shultz — \$1,000.00
- Tina Stupasky — \$1,000.00

## Silver Donors (\$500-\$999)

- Colleen Stangeland — \$875.00
- Emily Jensen — \$850.00
- Leigh Matthews Bock — \$600.00
- Julie Nowacki — \$555.00
- Caroline Cummings — \$500.00
- Steve Robinson — \$500.00
- Jamie Jablonski — \$500.00
- Illona Wilken — \$500.00
- Carol Sillars — \$500.00
- Colleen Stangeland — \$500.00
- Barry Polonsky — \$500.00
- Merrill Moore — \$500.00
- Christina Lund — \$500.00
- Patty Lane — \$500.00
- Morley Hegstrom — \$500.00

### **Bronze Donors (\$50-\$499)**

- Robert Steck — \$375.00
- Rebecca Carlson — \$370.00
- Joseph Cioffi — \$350.00
- Sherri Morgan — \$350.00
- Audrey Garrett — \$350.00
- Chiquit McCloskey — \$300.00
- Christina Lund — \$300.00
- Morley Hegstrom — \$300.00
- Dessia Coleman Fry — \$300.00
- Danielle Uhlhorn — \$300.00
- Amanda Steck — \$295.00
- Heather Sturdevant — \$270.00
- Chelsea Meter — \$250.00
- Karen Stenard — \$250.00
- Karyn Kaplan — \$250.00
- Mike Biglan — \$250.00
- Bess Blacquiere — \$250.00
- Susan Graham — \$250.00
- Mary Jeanne-Jacobsen — \$250.00
- Angie Marzano — \$250.00
- Jen West — \$250.00
- Cynthia Pappas — \$250.00
- Larry Grone Grone — \$240.00
- Sherri Morgan — \$200.00
- Audrey Garrett — \$200.00
- Rotary — \$165.00
- Iris Bicksler — \$150.00
- Caroline Cummings — \$150.00
- Joseph Cioffi — \$150.00
- David Dahms — \$150.00
- Hillary Darland — \$150.00
- Emily David — \$150.00
- Jeffery Desler — \$150.00
- Emily Farrell — \$150.00
- Dana Fleming — \$150.00
- Mark Herbert — \$150.00
- Gena Hutton — \$150.00
- Jamie Jablonski — \$150.00
- Mary Jeanne Jacobsen — \$150.00
- Bev Smith — \$150.00
- Joy Watson — \$150.00
- David Wade — \$150.00
- Peter Thorsson — \$150.00
- Tina Stupasky — \$150.00
- Karen Stenard — \$150.00
- Carol Sillars — \$150.00
- Megan Shultz — \$150.00
- Monuca Shovlin — \$150.00
- Michaela Shanahan — \$150.00
- Leslie Scott — \$150.00
- Barry Polonsky — \$150.00
- Eric Olson — \$150.00
- Ravi Natanson — \$150.00
- Yvonne Mikkelsen — \$150.00
- Merike Mighell — \$150.00
- Chelsea Meter — \$150.00
- Jeffrey Measelle — \$150.00
- Kelly McGhehey — \$150.00
- Weika Mcfarlane — \$150.00
- Sharah Madrone — \$150.00
- Donald MacGregor — \$150.00
- Sarah Kehl — \$150.00
- Rhoda Johnson — \$150.00
- Cory Burket — \$150.00
- Kathi Jaffe — \$150.00
- Lisa Joy Bateman — \$150.00
- Katie Amondson — \$150.00
- Debra Barber — \$150.00
- Illona Wilken — \$125.00
- Dana Abel — \$120.00
- John VanLandingham — \$100.00
- Sabrina Trembley — \$100.00
- Clare Feighan — \$100.00
- John Davis — \$100.00
- Hillary Darland — \$100.00
- Julie Burket — \$100.00
- Dan Buckwald — \$100.00
- Mary Bottensek — \$100.00
- Sasha Anderson — \$100.00
- Katie Amondson — \$100.00
- Mary Bottensek — \$100.00
- Patricia Boucher — \$100.00
- Jan Gardner — \$100.00
- Michelle Ericksen — \$100.00
- Simon Fulford — \$100.00

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- Mark Gall — \$100.00
  - Lauren (LoLo) Grossman — \$100.00
  - Stephanie Morgan — \$100.00
  - Anne Sharman — \$100.00
  - John Shute — \$100.00
  - Craig Smith — \$100.00
  - Dana Fleming — \$100.00
  - Dab Buckwald — \$100.00
  - Chris Hayes — \$100.00
  - Kim Philpott — \$100.00
  - Evynne Hollens — \$100.00
  - Adam Wendt — \$100.00
  - Freedom Walters — \$100.00
  - Danielle Uhlhorn — \$100.00
  - Peter Thorsson — \$100.00
  - John Stapleton — \$100.00
  - Jan Sohlman — \$100.00
  - Rodney Skinner — \$100.00
  - Michaela Shanahan — \$100.00
  - Jen Thoennes — \$100.00
  - Deanna Palm — \$100.00
  - Vonnice Mikkelsen — \$100.00
  - Bob Mighell — \$100.00
  - Kelly McGhehey — \$100.00
  - Leigh Matthews-Bock — \$100.00
  - Joy Marshall — \$100.00
  - Rhoda Johnson — \$100.00
  - Chris Miller — \$100.00
  - Jed Jaffe — \$100.00
  - Dana Smith — \$75.00
  - Beth Patterson — \$75.00
  - Andrew Robinson — \$75.00
  - Stephen Robinson — \$75.00
  - Beverly Smith — \$75.00
  - Caitlin Vargas — \$75.00
  - Denise Sprengelmeyer — \$75.00
  - John Stapleton — \$75.00
  - Rebecca Stenzel — \$75.00
  - Adam Wendt — \$75.00
  - Merrill Moore — \$75.00
  - Deanna Palm — \$75.00
  - Jan Gardner — \$75.00
  - Sara Mason — \$75.00
  - Joy Marshall — \$75.00
  - Patty Lane — \$75.00
  - Emily Jensen — \$75.00
  - Tammy Inglis-Drew — \$75.00
  - Bev Behrman — \$75.00
  - Matt Beaudet — \$75.00
  - Jodi Auxier — \$75.00
  - Michael Marzano — \$75.00
  - Matt Beaudet — \$75.00
  - Cynthia Matherly — \$50.00
  - Karla Snell — \$50.00
  - Linda Redmon — \$50.00
  - Dianne Porchia — \$50.00
  - Cynthia Matherly — \$50.00
  - Oriana Kahn Hurwit — \$50.00
  - Marci Cody — \$50.00
  - M.B. Barlow — \$50.00
  - Diane Porchia — \$50.00
  - Rigoberto Solares — \$50.00